

Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy – Clarifications & Revised Terminology

Approved by the Lynx/Wolverine Steering Committee

October 23-24, 2001

Based upon feedback from field units the Lynx Biology Team determined there was a need for clarification of some language in the Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy (August 2000 edition). The Biology Team prepared revised language at a meeting held on June 25, 2001 and submitted those revisions to the Lynx/Wolverine Steering Committee for approval during the Steering Committee meeting held on October 23 and 24, 2001 at Seeley Lake, Montana. The following clarifications/revisions were approved or assigned to a work group by the Steering Committee. Replace the language in the August 2000 version of the Lynx Conservation and Strategy with the **approved language**. Changes are highlighted in **boldface** type.

There are 2 items listed that were assigned to a work group for additional clarification and are not yet approved.

Conservation Measures to Address Risk Factors Affecting Lynx Productivity (Page 7-4)

C. Recreation Management (Page 7-9)

Programmatic planning – standards.

Original text:

1. On federal lands in lynx habitat, allow no net increase in groomed or designated over-the-snow routes and snowmobile play areas by LAU. This is intended to apply to dispersed recreation, rather than existing ski areas.

Proposed revised text assigned to a work group:

1. On federal lands in lynx habitat, allow no net increase in groomed or designated over-the-snow routes and designated snowmobile play areas by LAU unless the designation serves to consolidate unregulated use and improves lynx habitat through a net reduction of compacted snow areas. Note: This standard does not apply to ski areas: see LCAS pages 7-9,16 “Developed Recreation.”

E. Livestock Grazing (Page 7-11)

Project planning – standards.

Original text:

1. Do not allow livestock use in openings created by fire or timber harvest that would delay successful regeneration of the shrub and tree components. Delay livestock use in post-fire and post-harvest created openings until successful regeneration of the shrub and tree components occurs.

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Approved revised text:

1. Do not allow livestock use in openings created by fire or timber harvest that would delay successful regeneration of the shrub and tree components. **(Second sentence deleted.)**

Original text:

3. Within the elevational ranges that encompasses forested lynx habitat, shrub-steppe habitats should be considered as integral to the lynx habitat matrix and should be managed to maintain or achieve mid seral or higher condition.

Proposed revised text assigned to a work group:

3. Within the elevational ranges that encompass forested lynx habitat, shrub-steppe habitats are integral to the lynx habitat and must be managed to maintain or achieve mid seral or higher condition.

Conservation Measures to Address Movement and Dispersal (Page 7-13)

C. Ski Areas/Large Resorts and Associated Activities (Page 7-16)

Project planning – standards:

Original text:

1. When planning new or expanding recreational developments, ensure that key linkage areas are protected.

Approved Revised text:

1. When planning new or expanding recreational developments, ensure that **connectivity within** linkage areas are **maintained**.

The word “key” has been removed by Committee action – see below.

GLOSSARY

New Term:

Designated over-the-snow routes and designated snowmobile play areas - This term applies to over-the-snow routes (such as trails) and snowmobile play areas (usually large, open

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areas) that are “designated”, that is, specifically marked on a map, described in the resource or forest plan, described in the travel plan, or signed. This definition does not apply to ski areas.

The Committee approved this new term and definition.

Original text (Page 102):

Key Linkage Areas – Critical areas for lynx habitat. Usually, the factors placing connectivity at risk are highways or private land developments. Special management emphasis is recommended to maintain or increase the permeability of key linkage areas.

Approved Revised text:

Linkage Areas (The word **Key** has been deleted by Committee action.) – **Habitat that provides landscape connectivity between blocks of lynx habitat. Linkage areas occur both within and between geographic areas where blocks of lynx habitat are separated by intervening areas of non-lynx habitat such as basins, valleys, agricultural lands, or where lynx habitat naturally narrows between blocks. Connectivity provided by linkage areas can be degraded or severed by human infrastructure such as high-use highways, subdivisions or other developments.**